

DMHAS, Problem Gambling Services

Trainings

Gambling Awareness, Assessment and Integration –

This training focuses on the issue of Disordered Gambling and the intersection with the Criminal Justice System. Persons with a gambling disorder may commit crimes to get the monies they need to continue their addictive behavior. Unlike offenders with drug and/or alcohol addictions, disordered gamblers can go through the entire criminal justice process without ever discussing or revealing their gambling addiction. This results in lack of access to services and diversionary options, and increased risk for re-offense. This training helps to raise awareness about gambling in the Criminal Justice system and discuss practical ways to integrate gambling into already existing paperwork, including adding brief, evidenced-based screens.

Gambling and Co-occurring Disorders -

This training focuses on the issue of Disordered Gambling and the intersection with the Criminal Justice System. Over the course of the past several years, there has been a dramatic shift in the way in which treatment services for substance abuse and mental health are provided. Not only are providers recognizing the importance of integrating treatment for alcohol, drug and tobacco use but the need to provide co-occurring disorder treatment for both substance use and mental health disorders. However, the screening, assessment and treatment of problem gambling often falls through the cracks, even in well-developed co-occurring disorder enhanced programs.

In this workshop, a brief overview of the neurobiological process involved in addiction will be discussed. The correlation of substance use and mental health disorders with problem gambling will be reviewed. Brief-assessment tools will be discussed and evaluated. Participants will also gain an understanding of the treatment of problem gamblers, what interventions can be utilized by the criminal justice professional and appropriate recommendations for treatment. Prevention and education strategies for helping clients at risk for developing gambling problems will also be covered.

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Youth Gambling: What You Need to Know –

This training focuses on youth gambling behaviors and the intersection with the Criminal Justice System. Gambling is a normative and pervasive activity within our culture, and young people not only participate in gambling activities at high rates but they have twice the rate of gambling problems as adults. Most often gambling occurs along with other risk activities such as substance use and truancy, and youth who gamble are more likely to be depressed and anxious. By nature of their brain development, youth are drawn into gambling activities and often unable to disengage from them. Unrecognized and untreated gambling problems complicate compliance and often delay recovery from other disorders. This training will include: prevalence and trends, current treatment and prevention initiatives, and how to work with your program to become "gambling informed".

For further information contact:

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